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DIRECTORATE OF
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Japan: Tokyo appears to be ready to sign the Nonproliferation Treaty.

Prime Minister Sato is working to obtain approval for signature from the cabinet and necessary party elements, a process that could be completed by the end of this week. This effort [redacted] may be explained by Sato's desire to sign before the treaty enters into force, probably in early February.

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Although Sato is in no hurry to ratify the treaty until his doubts concerning it are allayed, he would like to be in step with most of the other major powers on this important issue by demonstrating his support of the treaty "in principle" by signing it.

Precedent dictates that the treaty can only be ratified, not merely signed, after entering into force. There is a possibility, however, that the other signatories to the treaty could be persuaded to grant a special dispensation and allow Japan to sign the treaty "shortly" after it goes into force. Sato must decide whether it is worthwhile to risk this in order to go through the motions of consulting the Diet after it convenes on 14 February.

Formal consultation with the Diet would deflate opposition charges that the government is ignoring popular opinion on this controversial issue. Many Japanese, including top government officials, are concerned over what they feel are discriminatory inspection procedures imposed by the treaty. Furthermore, there is an unspoken fear on the part of many Japanese that signature of the treaty would foreclose Japan's options to develop nuclear weapons in the future.

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Guinea: In a rare expression of dissidence within Sekou Touré's one-party regime, a group of student militants has condemned the leadership for betrayal of the revolution.

The students are delegates from Guinea's elite Polytechnic Institute to the party's National Council of the Revolution (CNR). Charging the leadership with corruption and incompetence, the students demanded a purge of "bourgeois" elements in the regime. Touré responded by demanding that the students furnish specific evidence or recant.

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Touré expects opposition to his radical regime to come from conservative elements. In fact, since its opening session on the 19th, the CNR has been preoccupied with Touré's revelation of the latest in a long series of alleged plots by a conservative-led exile opposition group.

The attack from dissident students within his own party probably took him by surprise.

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Touré may dismiss some middle-level officials to rebut the students' charges, but he is not likely to purge the top leadership.

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Communist China - Guinea: President Touré has announced that Communist China has pledged to build a cement plant and to rehabilitate the Conakry-Kankan railroad.

The six-man Communist Chinese delegation that arrived in Guinea on 23 January presumably agreed that China would do this under an economic and technical cooperation agreement signed in 1969. Although President Touré had stated in November that the Chinese also would provide assistance in improving the port at Conakry and for agricultural development, these projects were not included in the recent announcement.

It is uncertain whether the Chinese will reconstruct the entire railroad. The USSR had agreed to rehabilitate that portion of the line from Kindia to Conakry as part of the recent agreement to develop Guinean bauxite deposits at Kindia.

Peking, through liberal aid offers to Guinea since 1959, has built up considerable prestige in the country.

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Cuba - Latin America: Officials in several Latin American countries are again taking public positions in favor of increased ties with Cuba.

In Chile the government-run newspaper has strongly recommended renewal of diplomatic and trade relations. An editorial argued that the long break with Cuba by all the Latin American countries except Mexico was not in their interest and had been forced upon them. Earlier this month the Christian Democratic presidential candidate, Radomiro Tomic, said that he favored resumption of relations with Cuba if that country agreed to abide by normal international practices. He cited Mexico's continuing ties as justification for action by other Latin American governments.

In Mexico, the government's presidential candidate--and sure winner--Luis Echeverria stated at a recent press conference that there have been no problems with Cuba, and that Mexico should increase its commercial and cultural relations with that country as with all countries of the world. Peruvian Foreign Minister General Edgardo Mercado Jarrin reportedly declared this week that his country would support Cuba's rapprochement if one were forthcoming with the inter-American system, although he added that Peru would not act alone.

These statements come at a time when some Latin American leaders feel the need to express their independence of the United States. In addition they may hope to elicit a statement from Havana indicating a willingness to work toward re-establishing relations. Castro, however, has stated that before any such measures can be taken, the Latin American nations must repudiate the OAS sanctions against Cuba.

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USSR: Deputy Chairman Trapeznikov of the State Committee for Science and Technology recently urged that technological progress replace quantity of output as the traditional criterion of success in Soviet industry.

His remarks reflect the leadership's current preoccupation with speeding the introduction of new technology into industry and increasing the effectiveness of science. These topics have been treated only in an exhortatory manner in most of the discussions following the central committee plenum in December.

Trapeznikov claimed that achieving the party's main economic goal of raising the living standards of the population was impossible without scientific-technical progress. He noted, however, that the pursuit of quality and the introduction of new techniques and machinery presently conflict with the achievement of quantitative targets. He claimed that although the economic reform attempted to change the success indicators to profitability and sales, quantity of production has remained the primary goal of enterprises and their ministries.

To correct this situation, he proposed that all indicators be subordinate to the rate of scientific-technical progress. He did not reveal precisely how this would be measured at individual enterprises but hinted that another price reform would be necessary for its successful implementation.

He also repeated his proposal of last July to halve the number of construction projects in order to speed the completion of plants vital to technological progress. Gosplan Chairman Baybakov reported at the Supreme Soviet meeting in December that only 300 large projects would be started in 1970 although 1,000 were proposed by the ministries.

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USSR: The recent release by Moscow of official statistics on economic performance during 1969 confirms the seven-percent growth in industrial production, the lowest since 1946. The Soviets attribute these disappointing results in part to "unfavorable weather conditions and natural disasters in some areas of the country." The output of the meat and milk industry, a major figure missing from the December report, was reported to be five percent short of its goal, one of the poorest showings of any industrial ministry. [REDACTED]

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European Communities - Israel: Agreement was reached last week on the content of a preferential trade agreement between the EC and Israel. The few remaining details will be settled and a text agreed upon at another meeting in February. Similar agreements with Arab states are possible. Although talks with Egypt are still in the exploratory stage, a preferential arrangement with Lebanon reportedly may be concluded soon. These developments will contribute to mounting concern over the Communities' preferential trade agreements, a topic likely to be discussed next month at the 26th session of the contracting parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. [REDACTED]

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Uganda: The murder on Sunday of the second-ranking army officer is likely to increase tensions, already high since the attempt on the life of President Milton Obote last December. The police are said to have no leads on the assailants, nor is there evidence that the murder was politically motivated. Nevertheless, Kampala's hyperactive rumor mill will try to connect the murder not only with the attempt on Obote's life but also with stories of antigovernment plotting in the armed forces. [REDACTED]

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Lesotho: Voters will elect 60 members of the National Assembly today. Prime Minister Jonathan's Basutoland National Party is expected by local observers to increase its slim majority in parliament by winning nearly two thirds of the seats. Election day probably will be calm in contrast to the violence of previous contests. Relations with South Africa, which surrounds Lesotho, have been an important campaign issue. Jonathan's conservative government is expected to continue its pragmatic policy of economic and regional cooperation with Pretoria. [REDACTED]

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NATO: Recent North Atlantic Council discussions suggest that the Allies will have difficulty agreeing on procedures and policy for any eventual multi-lateral negotiations with the Soviet Union and East European states. The discussions result from the decision of the NATO ministerial meeting in December 1969 to study this problem. They are made more urgent by the Warsaw Pact's growing campaign to promote its proposal for East-West talks, the European Security Conference. The UK is suggesting a Standing Commission on East-West Relations, but Allied reaction expressed in the Council meeting on 22 January was generally negative. The Council probably will remand the problem to NATO's senior political advisers within the next few days for further study.

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UN - South-West Africa: Some members of the Security Council, spurred by the Afro-Asians, will request a Council meeting for tomorrow on South-West Africa. Zambia, Sierra Leone, and Finland have drafted a resolution that condemns Pretoria's refusal to comply with the UN resolutions calling for withdrawal of its administration from the territory. The resolution, however, is considerably milder than expected, indicating the drafters' desire to obtain the support of the Western powers. Mandatory trade sanctions are not proposed but a committee of nine experts would be set up to report to the Council by 1 July on steps the UN might take. [REDACTED]

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